

AN EXPLANATION THAT DON'T EXPLAIN.

Ex-Chief Mayes, in an interview in the Sallisaw Star, characterizes the \$125,000 freedmen steal as "scandalous". Now this may or may not apply to anyone else in the race for chief. Mr. Mayes was in Washington it is said when the scheme was concocted. Wm. J. McConnell in his report on the matter says: "Although the committee appointed by the Cherokee council had authority to summon witnesses and compel the attendance of the same, the character of the evidence they obtained is not such as to be of much value, and the refusal of Chief Mayes to authorize the investigation to be continued is not satisfactorily explained." On page seven of this famous report George Benge makes affidavit as follows: A contract was "entered into by and between E. C. Boudinot, on the part of the Cherokee Nation and R. H. Kern on the part of the said freedmen aforesaid, whereby the said Chief Mayes agreed to call an extra session of the National Council for the purpose of submitting by special message by which he would advocate the consummation and appropriation of the \$400,000 in harmony with the compromise as agreed on by Kern and Boudinot and the said agreement as made by said Mayes." Chief Mayes either did or did not enter into this conspiracy to rob his people. His explanation is a puny effort to shift the responsibility onto some one else. He of all others was in a position to guard the interests of the Cherokees. If he entered into this agreement in Washington as the report says he did he ought now to have the decency to keep his mouth shut.

ROOSEVELT KNOCKED OUT.

In bidding for the favor of the colored race Mark Hanna has turned the tables on the President pretty thoroughly. If Roosevelt can beat this he is more resourceful than he has been given credit for. Senator Hanna has introduced a bill granting to all ex-slaves who were freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln during the war of the rebellion. It provides that persons over 55 years of age, and less than 60, male or female, shall receive a cash bounty of \$100 and a monthly pension of \$8 per month; persons between 60 and 70 years old, a bounty of \$300 and a pension of \$12 per month; and persons over 70 years old a bounty of \$500 and a pension of \$15 per month. The bill also provides for the payment of the bounty and pension to relatives who may be charged with the care of ex-slaves.

The attorneys for the Cherokee Nation will appeal the decision of the Dawes Commission in the Dawson case.

The Muskogee Times calls the Fayetteville cut-off of the Frisco the "Oklahoma limited." But it does not touch Oklahoma.

With two up-town express offices, Vinita is getting to be metropolitan. But the express people had to seek other quarters than the insignificant stations.

Whether the omnibus bill passes or not, or whether New Mexico and Arizona are admitted as one or two states, the ultimate destiny of Indian Territory and Oklahoma is single statehood.

There is now no longer any doubt as to who killed Governor Goebel, of Kentucky, and the confession of the murderer implicates beyond all doubt Wm. S. Taylor, the republican candidate who was, at the time of the killing, usurping the functions of the office of governor of the state. Will this red-handed fugitive be longer protected against prosecution for this great crime?

Coleman Younger has at last received a full pardon from the Minnesota penitentiary on condition that he leave the state forever and refrain from going into the show business.

The statehood agitation will perhaps now lull into innocuous desuetude as the end of the session of congress comes in sight. But we will get what is wanted at the next session without doubt.

With more than a dozen artesian wells in full flow within the limits of this city and no effort made to have a system of public water works shows a lamentable lack of enterprise somewhere along the line.

Ninety-five per cent of every load by railroad, steamship or express, must be carted in a wagon or truck over a highway. It costs the farmers of the United States nearly three times more than those of Europe to market an equal tonnage of farm products over primary roads.—Good Roads.

It is now conceded that there will be no statehood legislation at the present session of congress. It may also be very safely stated that the next statehood bill will include Indian territory and Oklahoma in one state. Indian territory can afford to wait for so desirable a consummation.

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Kansas Union Life Insurance Company printed in this paper is a remarkably fine showing. This strong, and solvent company offers the very highest protection to its policy holders and is one of the safest of all the life insurance concerns in existence.

There is some prospect that a bill regulating the practice of medicine in the Indian Territory will pass congress and become a law. The Indian Territory and the state of Arkansas have less protection in this particular, perhaps, than any other state or territory of the Union. Men who practice medicine and surgery and who dispense medicines ought to have the very best qualifications.

No one seems to know for sure the status of the Delaware citizens of the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokees have always understood the agreement to mean that all registered Delawares living at the time of allotment are entitled to 160 acres, and their descendants to hold as other Cherokee citizens. But many now take a different view, claiming that in view of the fact that the Delawares sued for the rights of both living and dead Delawares to 160 the termination of their suit will effect the status of those still living. "We shall see what we shall see."

It is becoming more and more apparent that a man can be a gentleman without carrying a gun to prove it. Killing a neighbor on his way home to dinner is not so essential to good citizenship as it used to be. When it comes to nice distinctions, there is no connection between a mans pocket book and his honor, except that which exists between his pocketbook and his debts. It is much better to reach for the money to maintain honesty than to reach for the hip pocket to uphold honor. We know a few men who can shoot better than they can pay their debts and do it a heap quicker.

It seems that the Vinita bar association is in doubt as to how to proceed, or whether to proceed at all, against a member who is accused of attempted bribery. The grand jury ought to have more to say about a case like this than the bar association. It is simply a criminal offense, an open and flaunt violation of the law, and men are being sent to the penitentiary constantly for less heinous offenses. The man who offers a bribe seeks to subvert the very principles upon which all government must stand. If such violations of the law are allowed to go unrebuked and unpunished, life and property are no longer safe in this community.

Seasonable Goods At Reasonable Prices!

We point with pride to our handsome line of **New Spring Waistings** Never has any previous season offered the ladies a better opportunity to buy neat, nobby waist goods. We are showing an exceptional handsome line of these goods in all the new weaves in both plain and figured designs.

Dress Goods.



Marsales in 28-in. width, in several different patterns. We offer them in this sale at.....18c

Mercerized Oxfords. In plain and figured designs, basket weaves, satin stripes, 35 and 40c-values, go in this sale at.. 30c

Mercerized Sales Cloth—The newest fad for early spring waists, both in plain and fancy stripes. Regular value 60c, during this sale we offer them at 50c

Flolines are entirely new fabrics, light in weight and soft in finish, handsome designs. We offer them in this sale at..... 65c

Furs.

We are determined to close out every fur scarf and boas that remains in our store. Only a few left. Come and take your choice at just one-half our marked figures.



Men's and Boys' Overcoats.

We have too many overcoats on hand. We have decided to give you a **25 per cent discount** on all Overcoats purchased now. You had better come early as we are selling them every day.

GROCERIES.

We have built a reputation by selling only pure goods. We maintain our reputation by scouring the country for good things to eat. The next time you are in town come in and see our stock of groceries. Our prices are in keeping with the policy of our store.

Jumbo Store

The necessity for the revival of the Commercial Club was never more pressing than at the present time. As a simple business proposition the business men of Vinita cannot afford to do without such an organization.

Dick Adams, representing the Delaware Indians in Washington, has written letters to the leading Delawares in the Cherokee nation holding out still further hope of winning the suit in the Supreme court that was recently lost in the court of claims. He says an appeal will be taken soon and that his attorneys are pleased with the decision of the court of claims.

The meeting of the press association at Muskogee in April promises to be one of the greatest meetings in the history of the organization. As a body the newspaper people of the Indian territory compare favorably with any state in the Union in point of general ability. It will be a pleasure

to meet the members of the craft in a two-days convention at Muskogee.

A drive into the country will reveal a condition of the roads that is ample to fill one with despair. A great many farmers, when forced to come to town, hitch four horses to a farm wagon and struggle through the deep mud all day going and coming. The state of the roads cannot be described. No one comes to town who is not compelled to by the utmost necessity.

A Night Alarm.

Worse than an alarm of fire at night is the brassy cough of croup, which sounds like the children's death knell and it means death unless something is done quickly. Foley's Honey and Tar never fails to give instant relief and quickly cures the worst forms of croup. Mrs. P. L. Cordier, of Mannington, Ky., writes, "My three year old girl had a severe case of croup; the doctor said she could not live. I got a bottle of Foley's Honey and Tar; the first dose gave quick relief and saved her life." Refuse substitutes Sold by Shanahan & Mitchell, Inc.

PRESS MEETING PROGRAM.

The following program was arranged for the press meeting at Muskogee April 23rd., 1903 by the executive committee.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1903.
8 p. m.—Invocation.
Address of welcome.
Response by Sidney Sugge, of the Ardmoreite.
Informal reception.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24.
9 a. m.—President Lindsey's address,
Indian Territory and the World's Fair.—Frank C. Hubbard, Muskogee.
Business meeting.

1 p. m.—The Mission of the Press.—U. S. Russell, South McAlester Capital.
The Country Correspondence.—F. S. E. Amos, Vinita Leader.
What Does the Press Need in the Way of Legislation.—A. L. Kates, Claremore Progress.
Is the Weekly Newspaper Worth A Dollar?—D. M. Marre,

Vinita Chieftain.
The foreign Advertiser.—F. M. Dundam, Sulphur Journal.
The Woman Reader.—N. R. Webster, Muskogee Times.
8 p. m.—How Does Cash in Subscription Work?—Sidney Sugge, Ardmoreite.
What is Judicious Advertising?—C. O. Musselman, Okmulgee Democrat.
Saturday, April 25.
9 a. m.—Gratis Advertising Abuse.—G. R. Crossett, Caddo Herald.
The Editorial Page.—W. H. Walker, Purcell Register.
How to Figure on Job Work and Advertising.—I. W. Singleton, Holdenville Times.
Newspapers and Politics.—Clarence B. Douglas, Muskogee Phoenix.
Query Box.—H. Jennings, Claremore Progress.
Election of Officers.
Allotments for fifty Cherokees wanted.